



Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2019
Room 326, City/County Building
12:00 p.m.

Mission: The CAC exists to provide citizen input into the safety of the citizens of Lewis and Clark County, the efficient and just treatment of defendants and offenders, the protection and healing of victims, and to work toward prevention of crime and the reduction of recidivism.

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Curt Chisholm called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and John Wilkinson read the mission statement.

Members present: Curt Chisholm (Chair), Abigail J. St. Lawrence, Gene Prendergast, John Wilkinson, Marshall Gingery, Mike Mahoney, Moffie Funk, Theresa Charlton, Theresa Ortega, Carolyn Belling, John Lytle and Stephanie Ballenger-Brooks.

Members excused: Judy Rolfe.

Members absent: Dennis Taylor and Tom Cordingley.

Others in attendance: Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, and Jocelyn Olsen.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the April 26, 2019 meeting were approved.

3. Dashboard Update on Criminal Justice Services

Abigail St. Lawrence asked about the status of item 2 of the Dashboard Update which states that there will be an annual review of statutory requirements at the end of the 2019 Legislative session. Abigail St. Lawrence stated that there were new items discussed in this Legislative session that will affect how the County operates in regards to pre-sentencing requirements and the renovation of the jail. Curt Chisholm stated that this review is currently pending. John Wilkinson added that the County Attorney mentioned at the latest CJCC meeting that they will follow-up on this review and report back at the next CJCC meeting.

Abigail St. Lawrence stated that it would be helpful to also look in to the studies being completed by the Law and Justice Interim Committee. Their first meeting will be June 28th.

4. Old Business – CAC Recommendations and Stepping Up Initiative

Curt Chisholm provided a review of the initiation of Pretrial Services in the five pilot counties in Montana and explained the functioning of the Public Safety Assessment (PSA). Curt Chisholm explained that Pretrial Services was the primary CAC recommendation, followed by a push for the Stepping Up Initiative.

Curt Chisholm explained the history of the Stepping Up Initiative in Lewis and Clark County as well as its purpose. Curt Chisholm followed up by stating it would be most beneficial to “marry” the Stepping Up Initiative and the PSA to divert people with mental illnesses away from the criminal justice system but noted that there are issues with “tainting” the judges with this information.

5. Old Business – CAC Subcommittees

It was determined that some of the CAC Subcommittees are not currently functioning which is why Curt Chisholm has asked the CAC to approve the formation of a new subcommittee for the Stepping Up Initiative. Moffie Funk noted that she had seen an email referring to a Stepping Up Subcommittee and was concerned as there had never been an official vote at the last meeting to create this subcommittee, yet they had already met, and a leader was already assigned. Curt Chisholm explained that the formation of the group and volunteering of the leader was completed in private conversation. Moffie Funk agreed to the importance of this Initiative and presented a motion to officially create the Stepping Up Subcommittee. Motion was seconded and passed. John Wilkinson was officially appointed chair of the subcommittee and John Lytle, Stephanie Ballenger-Brooks, and Mike Mahoney volunteered to participate. John Wilkinson stated that he reached out to Brandy Vail, Captain Alan Hughes, Ben McGaugh, Dennis Taylor, and Jen Gursky. He then provided an overview of what he has been working on for this project. The next meeting is scheduled for June 10th, from 11:30am to 12:30pm in room 309 of the City/County building.

Abigail St. Lawrence pointed out that the CAC has the structure outlined in the bylaws to ensure things continue to function and move forward despite membership changes. Abigail St. Lawrence suggested that the CAC take this opportunity to reorganize. John Wilkinson questioned whether the current subcommittees still reflect what the CAC is doing. Abigail St. Lawrence presented a motion to create a temporary subcommittee to review and revise the bylaws and mission of the CAC. Motion was seconded and passed. Volunteers to participate in this subcommittee were Abigail St. Lawrence (asked to take the lead by Curt Chisholm), Theresa Ortega, Marshall Gingery, and Moffie Funk if needed.

6. Public Comment

Jocelyn Olsen informed the Committee that the Criminal Justice Services Department moved to the 406 Fuller building and invited all those who were interested to visit.

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen mentioned that he met with Justice Michael Swingley and his entire staff yesterday regarding their budget. Commissioner Hunthausen stated that Justice Swingley shared that he is more encouraged about all the work that has been done by Pretrial Services staff and sees that the Pretrial Services Program is working for many cases.

7. Next Meeting: June 28, 2019

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Minutes approved June 28, 2019.